

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A redundant system structured for use in association with a utility structure having an external surface configuration perimeter, said system comprising:

an inflatable device including a body having at least one surface structured for receiving an impact of at least one descending object, said body defining at least one opening structured to receive therein at least a portion of said external surface configuration perimeter of said utility structure; and,

at least one inlet operatively associated with said body of said inflatable device, said inlet structured to receive at least one type of fluid media into said body for inflating said inflatable device.

2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising at least one exhaust port operatively associated with said body of said inflatable device.

3. The system of Claim 2, wherein at least one of said exhaust ports includes a breakable membrane.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein at least one of said exhaust ports includes a flap.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein a diameter of said inflatable device is related to a height of said utility structure.

6. The system of Claim 1, further comprising at least one inflation device operatively associated with said inlet of said inflatable device.

7. The system of Claim 6, further comprising at least one control system configured for operative association with at least one of said inflation devices.

8. The system of Claim 7, further comprising at least one communication device configured for communicating commands to at least one of said control systems.

9. The system of Claim 6, further comprising at least one power source configured for supplying power to at least one of said inflation devices.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein at least one of said power sources includes a battery of a maintenance vehicle.

11. The system of Claim 8, where said communication device includes a communication device selected from the group consisting of a remote control device, a laptop, a personal digital assistant, and a telephone.

12. The system of Claim 8, further comprising at least one communication media configured for communicating said commands to said control systems.

13. The system of Claim 1, wherein said body of said inflatable device includes at least two segments.

14. The system of Claim 1, further comprising at least one enclosure piece structured for creating a substantially closed interior volume within said body of said inflatable device.

15. The system of Claim 14, further comprising a pathway formed in said body of said inflatable device.

16. The system of Claim 1, wherein said body of said inflatable device includes a shape selected from the group consisting of a generally circular body shape, a generally square body shape, a generally triangular body shape, and a generally hexagonal body shape.

17. A redundant system structured for use in association with a utility structure having an external surface configuration perimeter, said system comprising:

an inflatable device including a body having at least one surface structured for receiving an impact of at least one descending object, said body defining at least one opening structured to receive therein at least a portion of said external surface configuration perimeter of said utility structure;

at least one inlet operatively associated with said body of said inflatable device, said inlet structured to receive at least one type of fluid media into said body for inflating said inflatable device;

at least one exhaust port operatively associated with said body of said inflatable device;

at least one inflation device operatively associated with said inlet of said inflatable device;

at least one control system configured for operative association with at least one of said inflation devices;

at least one power source configured for supplying power to at least one of said inflation devices, wherein at least one of said power sources includes a battery of a maintenance vehicle; and,

at least one communication device configured for communicating commands to at least one of said control systems.

18. A redundant system structured for use in association with a utility structure having an external surface configuration perimeter, said system comprising:

an inflatable device including a body having a first portion defining at least one opening structured to receive therein at least a portion of said external surface configuration perimeter of said utility structure, said body having a second portion having at least one surface portion structured for receiving an impact of at least one descending object; and,

at least one inlet operatively associated with said body of said inflatable device, said inlet structured to receive at least one type of fluid media into said body for inflating said inflatable device.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein a height of said second portion of said body of said inflatable device is greater than a height of said first portion of said body of said inflatable device.

20. The system of Claim 18, wherein a length of said second portion of said body of said inflatable device is greater than a length of said first portion of said body of said inflatable device.